

CONCEPT PAPER: POTENTIAL STRUCTURE OF A CAPITAL CITY CHILD CARE CONSORTIUM

**(Created pursuant to the authorization in
section 110.151(6), Florida Statutes)**

- § A work-site child care consortium would be created by interlocal agreement under Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, among the Department of Financial Services (the "Department"), Leon County (the "County"), the City of Tallahassee (the "City"), and Calhoun Street Downtown Babies, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, ("Downtown Babies") (collectively referred to as the "Consortium Participants"). Such consortium would establish, operate and maintain work site child care centers within downtown Tallahassee.
- § The mission of the Capital City Child Care Consortium would be to provide unmet child care needs within the downtown areas of the State capital on a scattered site basis for employees of the Department, the City, the County and, as available, to the private sector. The goal would be to provide effective and quality child care services on a collaborative basis at or near the work-site of the Consortium Participants.
- § The Consortium Participants would provide the following funds, services, and facilities to implement and operate the Capital City Child Care Consortium:
1. Make available existing space for the establishment of full service child development centers and scattered site infant rooms.
 2. Provide funds for renovation of available space that is identified or provide rent subsidies to enhance financial feasibility.
 3. Provide financial assistance in the startup of new full-service childcare centers or scattered site infant rooms.
 4. Downtown Babies would operate and manage the full-time child care facilities and the scattered site infant rooms consistent with established guidelines and criteria established by the Consortium Participants.
- § The Capital City Child Care Consortium would be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of one member appointed by each Consortium Participant. The Board of Directors would review and approve child care standards to be used by Downtown Babies and establish the child care rate to be paid by each Consortium Participant and the private sector for such services.

- § It is anticipated that the child care rate established for each Consortium Participant would be based upon a pro-rata share of the anticipated annual operations budget adjusted in consideration the value of the facilities or funding contribution provided by such Participant. The child care rate for the private sector would not include any adjustment.
- § In addition to the establishment of full service childcare centers in available State and office facilities, it is contemplated that the Capital City Child Care Consortium would establish scattered site worksite infant rooms where the childcare need and available space is identified.

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Select Year:

The 2002 Florida Statutes

[Title X](#) [Chapter 110](#) [View Entire Chapter](#)
PUBLIC OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AND RECORDS STATE EMPLOYMENT

110.151 State officers' and employees' child care services.--

(1) The Department of Management Services shall approve, administer, and coordinate child care services for state officers' and employees' children or dependents. Duties shall include, but not be limited to, reviewing and approving requests from state agencies for child care services; providing technical assistance on child care program startup and operation; and assisting other agencies in conducting needs assessments, designing centers, and selecting service providers. Primary emphasis for child care services shall be given to children who are not subject to compulsory school attendance pursuant to part II of chapter 1003, and, to the extent possible, emphasis shall be placed on child care for children aged 2 and under.

(2) Child care programs may be located in state-owned office buildings, educational facilities and institutions, custodial facilities and institutions, and, with the consent of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in buildings or spaces used for legislative activities. In addition, centers may be located in privately owned buildings conveniently located to the place of employment of those officers and employees to be served by the centers. If a child care program is located in a state-owned office building, educational facility or institution, or custodial facility or institution, or in a privately owned building leased by the state, a portion of the service provider's rental fees for child care space may be waived by the sponsoring agency in accordance with the rules of the Department of Management Services. Additionally, the sponsoring state agency may be responsible for the maintenance, utilities, and other operating costs associated with the child care center.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the cost of child care services shall be offset by fees charged to employees who use the child care services. Requests for proposals may provide for a sliding fee schedule, with fees charged on the basis of the employee's household income.

(4) The provider of proposed child care services shall be selected by competitive contract. Requests for proposals shall be developed with the assistance of, and subject to the approval of, the Department of Management Services. Management of the contract with the service provider shall be the responsibility of the sponsoring state agency.

(5) An operator selected to provide services must comply with all state and local standards for the licensure and operation of child care facilities, maintain adequate liability insurance coverage, and assume financial and legal responsibility for the operation of the program. Neither the operator nor any personnel employed by or at a child care facility shall be deemed to be employees of the state. However, the sponsoring state agency may be responsible for the operation of the child care center when:

(a) A second request for proposals fails to procure a qualified service provider; or

(b) The service provider's contract is canceled and attempts to procure another qualified service provider are unsuccessful;

and plans for direct operation are approved by the Department of Management Services.

(6) In the areas where the state has an insufficient number of employees to justify a worksite center, a state agency may join in a consortium arrangement utilizing available state facilities with not-for-profit corporations or other public employers to provide child care services to both public employees and employees of private sector employers. The consortium agreement must first address the unmet child care needs of the children of the public employees whose employers are members of the consortium, and then address the child care needs of private sector employees.

(7) The State Employee Child Care Revolving Trust Fund is hereby reestablished in the Department of Management Services.

(8) The Department of Management Services may adopt any rules necessary to achieve the purposes of this section.

History.--s. 1, ch. 85-118; s. 1, ch. 88-151; s. 8, ch. 89-277; s. 4, ch. 90-196; s. 1, ch. 91-184; s. 26, ch. 92-279; s. 55, ch. 92-326; s. 4, ch. 99-207; s. 1, ch. 99-304; s. 6, ch. 99-399; s. 5, ch. 2002-300; s. 890, ch. 2002-387.

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November 8, 2004

Ms. Joan B. Nabors, Executive Director
Florida Initiatives, Inc.
1400 Village Square Blvd.
Unit PMB-221
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Dear Ms. Nabors:

Thank you so much for your letter of October 5, 2004 inviting a member of the City Commission to serve as part of a working group to determine the feasibility of establishing a consortium to provide childcare facilities in the downtown area. Your letter, along with the concept paper you provided, which describes the potential structure of such a consortium and the roles of the consortium participants, has been shared with the Mayor and City Commissioners.

The City is interested in examining the feasibility of this concept, and Commissioner Andrew Gillum was recently appointed by the City Commission as its representative to serve with the group that will be formed for this purpose. Commissioner Gillum is looking forward to learning more about your proposal, and sharing his ideas on this very important initiative. He may be scheduled for a meeting by calling his Aide, Angela Whitaker at 891-8503.

Thank you for inviting the City to serve as a partner in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Anita R. Favors
City Manager

ARF/GHM

cc: Mayor and City Commissioners
Gloria Hall McNeil, Director, Human Resources Department
Angela Whitaker, Aide to Commissioner Gillum

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WHEREAS, the availability of affordable quality work site childcare in downtown Tallahassee will provide key employee support to those businesses dedicated to its economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the availability of quality childcare services in downtown Tallahassee will provide yet another attraction in the establishment of residential units in the downtown area; and

WHEREAS, the availability of affordable quality childcare in downtown Tallahassee during periods of peak activity in the capital city will provide an additional essential amenity; and

WHEREAS, section 110.151(6), Florida Statutes, authorizes the establishment of consortium arrangements between public employees and not-for-profit corporations to provide work site child care for both public and private employees; and

WHEREAS, Florida Initiatives, Inc. is exploring the feasibility of creating a section 110.151(6) childcare consortium in the downtown capital city center to provide quality work site childcare services; and

WHEREAS, Calhoun Street Downtown Babies, Inc., currently providing quality childcare in downtown Tallahassee, is operating at capacity and faced with lengthy waiting lists for infants and toddlers and has expressed an interest in exploring the feasibility of such a childcare consortium; and

WHEREAS, the state Department of Financial Services has identified available state facilities for utilization by such a downtown capital city consortium:

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority ("the Board") as follows:

SECTION 1. The Board supports the efforts of Florida Initiatives, Inc. to determine the feasibility for the establishment of a downtown capital city consortium to provide affordable work site childcare facilities pursuant to section 110-151(6), Florida Statutes.

SECTION 2. The board urges the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County and the City Commission of the City of Tallahassee to participate in a working group established to explore the feasibility of such a childcare consortium in downtown Tallahassee.

Chair: [Signature] Secretary: [Signature]

Dated this 2nd day of December 2003

October 5, 2004

Parwez Alam
County Administrator
Leon County
301 South Monroe Street, 5th Floor
Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1853

Re: Capital City Childcare Consortium

Dear P.A.:

This is written to request the support of the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County (the "County") to participate as a member in a working group of public employees to determine the feasibility of the establishment of a Downtown Capital City Child Care Consortium (the "Consortium") to provide affordable worksite childcare facilities within downtown Tallahassee.

As you know, section 110.151(6), Florida Statutes, authorizes state agencies to join in a consortium arrangement utilizing available State facilities with not-for-profit corporations and other public employees to provide childcare services to both public employees and employees of private sector employers. Under such statutory authority, the unmet needs of the children of public employees who are members of the consortium are the first priority. Thereafter, the childcare needs of private sector employees can be addressed.

Attached is a Concept Paper describing the potential structure of a consortium created pursuant to such statutory authority.

Also attached for your information are the following:

1. Copies of two letters to me as Executive Director of Florida Initiatives, Inc. from the Office of Tom Gallagher, Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida, dated November 3, 2003 and October 5, 2004. As indicated, the Department is interested in exploring the feasibility of such downtown consortium concept and has identified potential available State facilities suitable as a childcare center that could be included as a part of the initial consortium childcare plan; and

2. A resolution from the Board of Directors of the Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority, dated December 8, 2003, supporting the efforts of Florida Initiatives, Inc. to determine the feasibility for the establishment of a consortium to provide affordable worksite childcare and urging the County and the City Commission of

the City of Tallahassee (the "City") to participate in a working group formed to determine the feasibility of such childcare worksite consortium concept.

I am forwarding a similar letter this date to Anita R. Favors, City Manager, requesting that the City also participate as a member of the working group formed to explore the feasibility of such downtown childcare consortium concept.

As you know, Calhoun Street Downtown Babies, Inc., a section 501(c) not-for-profit corporation, ("Downtown Babies") is currently providing quality worksite childcare in downtown Tallahassee in the former Bank of America building now owned by the County. As we discussed, Downtown Babies currently maintains lengthy waiting lists for infant and toddler childcare for working parents in downtown Tallahassee. The length of the waiting lists and the volume of telephone inquiries received by Downtown Babies documents the existing unmet needs for quality worksite childcare in downtown Tallahassee.

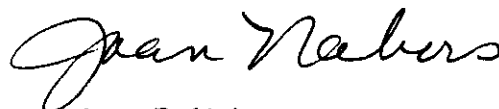
As you recall, in the Fall of 1999, Florida Initiatives, Inc. conducted a survey of the childcare needs of the County to determine the feasibility of an on-site childcare center within the County Courthouse. Such survey sought to determine the economic impact on the County resulting from unsatisfactory childcare solutions utilized by County employees. Florida Initiatives, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation specializing in the education of community leaders on the short and long-term return from wise investments in high quality programs for children. One of the childcare projects of Florida Initiatives, Inc. was the creation of Downtown Babies.

The 1999 County survey showed a need and desire for worksite child development programs by County employees. Additionally, the 1999 Report documented, during the survey period, that a total of 627 employee days were missed because of unfulfilled childcare demands for a total quantified economic loss to the County during the survey period of \$73,535. At the time of the completion of the 1999 survey, no available space was found in the existing County Courthouse to implement an on-site childcare center and the County was in the process of looking at courthouse expansion alternatives culminating in the acquisition of the Bank of America Building.

The specific request is the appointment of a County Commissioner as a representative of the County to participate in a working group to be formed to determine the feasibility and potential structure of a Capital City Childcare Consortium. It is contemplated that, in addition to a County Commissioner, a member of the City Commission of the City, a Member of the Board of Directors of Downtown Babies and a representative of the Department will constitute the Consortium working group.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please call me.

Very truly yours,



Joan B. Nabors
Executive Director



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
STATE OF FLORIDA

TOM GALLAGHER

November 3, 2003

Ms. Joan B. Nabors, Executive Director
Florida Initiatives, Inc.
Unit PMB 221
1400 Villages Square Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Re: Capital Center Childcare Consortium

Dear Joan:

This is written to express the interest of the Department of Financial Services (the "Department") in exploring the feasibility of utilizing available state facilities to provide quality work site childcare in downtown Tallahassee pursuant to a consortium agreement authorized under section 110.151(6), Florida Statutes. This statutory authority allows a state agency to enter into a consortium agreement utilizing available state facilities to provide work site childcare center with other public employees and not-for-profit corporations. As expressly contemplated in this statutory authorization, such work site childcare center could provide childcare services to both public and private employees if the unmet childcare needs of public employees of consortium members are first addressed.

It is my understanding that Calhoun Street Downtown Babies, Inc., a 501c not-for-profit corporation ("Downtown Babies") currently provides quality childcare services in downtown Tallahassee to both public and private employees and that such facilities are operated at full capacity. It is my further understanding that Downtown Babies maintains a lengthy waiting list for infant and toddler childcare openings.

You have indicated that the Board of Directors of Downtown Babies has requested you to explore the availability of state facilities and feasibility of a section 110.151(6) consortium to address this documented unmet childcare needs in the downtown capital center. You have also suggested that Leon County and the City of Tallahassee are potential consortium members.

As we discussed, we have identified potential available state facilities suitable for use as a childcare center and are willing to participate with a working group formed to explore the feasibility of a capital city childcare consortium.

Please contact me concerning the interest of the other public employees in this innovative work site childcare initiative.

Sincerely,

Paul Mitchell

PAUL MITCHELL • CHIEF OF STAFF • DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
200 EAST GAINES STREET • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0316
(850) 413-4900 • FAX (850) 413-2998



FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCIAL SERVICES

TOM GALLAGHER
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
STATE OF FLORIDA

September 30, 2004

Ms. Joan B. Nabors, Executive Director
Florida Initiatives, Inc.
Unit PMB 221
1400 Village Square Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32312

Re: Capital Center Childcare Consortium

Dear Joan:

This is to confirm that the Department of Financial Services (the "Department") remains interested in exploring the feasibility of utilizing available State facilities to provide quality worksite childcare in downtown Tallahassee pursuant to a partnership between the Department, other public employees, and not-for-profit corporations. This interest was originally documented to you in my letter dated November 3, 2003, a copy of which is attached for your reference.

Please contact me when you have secured the participation of other public employees in this innovative worksite childcare initiative so that a working group to provide such feasibility analysis can be formed.

Sincerely,

Paul Mitchell